

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Rufus J. Ivey House

Raleigh vicinity, Wake County, WA1718, Listed 4/5/2006

Nomination by Debbie Bevin

Photographs by Ellen Turco, November 2004



Façade view



Side view

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ivey, Rufus J., House

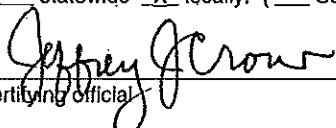
other names/site number WA 1718

2. Location

street & number 6115 Louisburg Road not for publication N/A
city or town Raleigh vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27616

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

2/17/06
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the
National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the
National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Ivey, Rufus J., House
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake
County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt

walls brick

other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See attached continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1872

Significant Dates

ca. 1872

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 17 720940 3970960
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debbie Bevin, Architectural Historian

organization Circa, Inc date November 28, 2005

street & number PO Box 28365 telephone 919/ 834-4757

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27611

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Sheila McDonald

street & number 6115 Louisburg Road telephone 919.878.8237

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27616

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina

The Rufus J. Ivey House sits on a 1.5-acre parcel on the Old Louisburg Road (US 401), seven miles north of Raleigh, in Wake County. The circa 1872 Italianate-style brick house is set back from the northwest side of the road and located near the center of its parcel, which is surrounded by a modern picket fence and landscaped with mature cedar and hardwood trees and ornamental flower beds. In the rear yard of the house are two non-contributing buildings: a concrete block pump house and a frame equipment shed. In addition, there are two non-contributing structures on the property: a gazebo and a garden arbor. A paved parking area is located in the southern corner of the lot to support the house's current use as a photography studio. The current acreage represents the remaining portion of the house's original 282-acre tract. Building locations and landscape features are shown on the site plan, which is attached as Exhibit A.

The lands surrounding the historic property are formerly agricultural lands now transitioning to suburban residential use. A recent residential subdivision is located to the north of the parcel and is separated from it by an undeveloped piece of land formerly belonging to the Ivey House property. US 401 has been widened in front of the property in recent years, and now carries six lanes of commuter traffic past the house, which nevertheless is buffered by mature landscaping.

Inventory List

1. Rufus J. Ivey House ca. 1872 Contributing Building

The Rufus J. Ivey House was built circa 1872 on the road from Raleigh to Louisburg. In a county not known for particularly stylish residences outside of Raleigh, the house stands out for its Italianate design and solid masonry construction. The house retains a high degree of physical integrity.

The two-story, L-shaped dwelling is constructed of brick laid in common bond. The house is topped by a steeply-pitched cross-gable roof with two tall interior chimney stacks of decorative corbelled brick. The gables are marked with short returns, and may have featured decorative sawn bargeboards originally. The five-bay front (southeast) elevation consists of a two-bay projecting section and a recessed three-bay main block. A one-story porch with a low hipped roof shelters the central entry and extends the length of the recessed main block. It is accessed by a set of concrete stairs leading to the entryway. This porch, which replaced an earlier, smaller porch around the turn of the twentieth century, is supported by three pairs of Doric columns with corresponding cornice brackets above. A railing with sawn balusters has been added in recent years.

The segmental-arched entry is located in the center bay of the house. Surrounded by sidelights and a two-pane transom, the front door has four panels, the top two of which are round-arched and glazed. All windows on the front elevation are segmental arched, with four-over-four sash, and have wooden sills with small consoles. The windows are flanked by modern black shutters.

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Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina

The projecting front gable contains a round window in the pediment, which likely replaced an original louvered vent like those found on the side gable pediments.

Both side elevations have a symmetrical arrangement of two segmental-arched, four-over-four windows on each level. As noted above, the side gable pediments contain round louvered vents. The rear (northwest) elevation is three bays wide, with a one-story hipped-roof screened porch. A crawl-space under the house is accessed by a small batten door on the rear elevation.

The interior of the Ivey House follows a center hall plan. An open-string staircase that has a tall, turned newel post, turned balusters, and foliate sawnwork string brackets rises from just inside the entryway to the second floor. At the end of the center hall is a rear entrance which is a more modest version of the front entry, with a segmental-arched, two-pane transom and four-panel, half-glazed door. There are four main rooms on the first floor, two flanking each side of the center hall. Three of the first floor rooms have original Gothic Revival mantels with pointed arch lintels resting on chamfered pilasters and block plinths. Four-panel doors with heavily-molded surrounds, wide baseboards with molded tops, and some chair rails are found throughout the first floor. Original pine floors remain in most of the main rooms and the halls. Walls are of original plaster. Closets originally flanked the chimney between the two rooms on the southwest side of the hall. One of these closets remains and one has been converted to a small half bath. The first floor room in the north corner of the house contains a modern kitchen with a linoleum floor. The kitchen is the only room in the house without its original mantel.

The second floor plan mirrors the first, with two pairs of rooms on either side of a center hall. Three of the four rooms have original closets, and all have Gothic Revival mantels identical to those on the first floor. The room over the downstairs kitchen now serves as a large bathroom, is carpeted, and has an open tiled shower in the north corner. Its closet has been replaced with an opening into the front room. Otherwise, the second floor rooms retain their original finish. An attic is accessed by a set of pull-down stairs in the upper hall.

2. Pump House ca. 1950 Non-contributing Building

Located north of the house is this small one-story, concrete block building. It is topped by a gable roof covered in composition shingles. Its construction date is unknown, but it is estimated to be mid-twentieth century.

3. Equipment Shed ca. 1995 Non-contributing Building

In the far northern corner of the property is a two-bay, shed-roofed, frame equipment shed which was built by the present owner.

4. Gazebo ca. 1995 Non-contributing Structure

The current owner built this octagonal frame gazebo in the side yard of the house. The gazebo is supported by turned posts with ornamental brackets and is topped by a two-tier shingled roof.

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Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina

A railing with balusters encloses the structure on seven of its eight sides. A winding flagstone path leads from the house to the gazebo, which is surrounded by perennial flower beds.

5. Arbor ca. 1950, ca. 1995 Non-Contributing Structure

Located adjacent to the pump house in the rear yard of the house is this rectangular garden arbor. The arbor is supported by simple frame boards and posts, and has latticework covering the two ends. Horizontal overhead members carry vines which grow on the structure. The arbor's original construction date is unknown, but the current owner rebuilt it in the mid-1990s.

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Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina

Statement of Significance

In a county not known for particularly stylish residences outside of the capital city, the circa 1872 Ivey House stands out for its Italianate design and solid masonry construction. It is a relatively intact and distinctive rural example of an Italianate residence of the 1870s, exhibiting the irregular massing, steeply pitched roofline, corbelled chimney stacks, and segmentally-arched window and door openings which are hallmarks of the style. Masonry houses were a rarity in nineteenth century Wake County, with the majority of rural houses being constructed with wood frames. The Ivey House is one of only three surviving nineteenth-century brick residences in the county outside of Raleigh, the others being the Greek Revival-style South Brick House (WA 1503) in Wake Forest, and an earlier brick (later covered with stucco) one-and-a-half story house (WA 2245) near Umstead Park (Lally, *MPDF*, F-127; Lally, 273).

The Ivey House meets Criterion C for Architecture. The architectural significance of the Ivey House is established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)," by Kelly A. Lally. Historic context for the house is presented in "Context 2: Civil War, Reconstruction, and a Shift to Commercial Agriculture (1861-1885)" (Lally, *MPDF*, E - 30-46). "Property Type 3B: Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I (1865-ca. 1918)" (Lally, *MPDF*, F - 133) identifies the Ivey House as one of only a few post-Civil War Italianate-style houses remaining in Wake County, and singles it out for its rare masonry construction. The dwelling displays a high degree of integrity from the period of significance as required by the registration requirements for Wake County houses stipulated on pages F - 141-142. The period of significance is circa 1872, the date of construction of the house.

Architecture Context

The architectural significance of the Ivey House is established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca.1770-1941)," by Kelly A. Lally. Architecture Context for the house is presented in "Property Type 3B: Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I (1865-ca. 1918)" (Lally, *MPDF*, F - 133).

In the second half of the nineteenth century, rural Wake County lagged behind Raleigh and other urban areas of the state in architectural innovation. Nationally, residential building styles began moving away from classicism towards the more "picturesque" Italianate and Gothic Revival modes in the 1840s. This trend was influenced in large part by pattern books such as Andrew Jackson Downing's *Cottage Residences* of 1842. The new availability of milled lumber and decorative trim, combined with an expanded rail network to distribute the goods, meant that some stylish residences in Raleigh and other North Carolina cities were being built with irregular massing and picturesque detailing in the years leading up to the Civil War.

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Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina

Despite these trends, most homeowners and builders in rural Wake County clung to the more conservative and familiar forms and design motifs of the Greek Revival for several more decades. However, a few houses that were essentially Greek Revival in form and proportion were adorned with elaborate decorative millwork in the post-Civil War period, such as the William R. Poole House (WA 350) near Garner. By the 1870s, "partaking of popular national trends for the first time, the county's residents began to move beyond the familiar plans and rectangular forms into L- and T-plan houses promoted by fashionable architectural books. Such houses not only reflected the wealth and taste of their owners but also, in a time of economic uncertainty, provided highly visible symbols of economic recovery" (Lally, 101).

The Ivey House is one of only a few post-Civil War houses remaining in the county that can be said to be Italianate in both plan and detailing. "When built on a main highway in the early 1870s, its boldly new form, as well as its large size and locally rare use of brick for a farmhouse, must have attracted widespread attention" (Lally, 101). The Ivey House's L-shaped plan departs from the symmetrical massing typical of the Greek Revival and earlier styles. According to the City of Raleigh's Historic Property Designation Application and Report on the house, its "modest but well-handled detailing, including segmentally-arched windows with small consoles below the sills, a segmentally-arched front doorway with sidelights, transom and half-glazed tabernacle panel door, the round vents in the gable ends and the ornamental corbelled chimney stacks are definitive of the Italianate style as manifested in North Carolina" (City of Raleigh, p.3). If in fact decorative bargeboards adorned the gables originally, the overall picturesque effect would have been enhanced. Interior detailing, including the elegant stair and Gothic Revival mantels, reflect the Italianate influence as well.

By far, the majority of houses built in rural Wake County during the nineteenth century were of frame construction (Lally, *MPDF*, F - 127), including the other Italianate houses of the period, the Avera-Winston House (WA 1952) and the J.R. Nowell House (WA 2160) both in Wendell (Lally, *MPDF*, F - 133). Therefore, the Ivey House's solid masonry construction sets it apart further from its contemporaries.

Historical Background

In September of 1871, Rufus J. Ivey (1823-1887) purchased a 282-acre tract on both sides of the Louisburg Road adjacent to the farm of the late Alpheus Jones (whose National Register-listed house still stands one-quarter mile north of the Ivey House). It is likely that Ivey had his house built shortly thereafter. Subsequent land transactions indicate that Ivey lived in the house until his death in 1887.

Little is known about the life or career of Rufus Ivey. He was the son of Mary Ivey and the brother of Colonel Nathan Ivey (1811-1865), who was Chairman of the Wake County Court at

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Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina

the time of his death. The 1884 *North Carolina Business Directory* lists Rufus Ivey as a "Retail Dealer." According to his obituary in the *News and Observer*, he was "very well known in this city..." and had "cordial relations with the business men of Raleigh, and many friends among them..."

According to Wake County estate records, at his death Ivey owned 1000 acres of land in the Neuse River township, an interest in two cotton gins, a cotton press and a corn mill, and the "two story brick shingle covered dwelling house 7 miles from Raleigh." Having never married or had children of his own, Ivey left his estate to be divided equally by three nieces. An auction was held on March 7, 1888, in which Samuel Watts purchased the 282-acre tract containing the house. Watts in turn sold the house and tract to E.B. and C.B. Barbee in 1904, who conveyed the property to William G. Norwood in 1912. It was likely during either Barbee's or Norwood's ownership of the house that the front porch was rebuilt in its present configuration. Norwood farmed substantial acreage in the area and apparently lived in the house before conveying the entire property to Eula Norwood in 1938.

Beginning in the 1940s, the parcel including the house was separated from the remaining acreage in a series of transactions that eventually shrank the property surrounding the house to its current 1.5 acres. It served as a residence until its 1994 purchase by the present owners, who use the house and grounds as a photography studio.

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Ivey Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina

Major Bibliographical References

Bishir, Catherine W. *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990.

Branson, Levi, ed. *North Carolina Business Directory*. Raleigh: Levi Branson Publishing Company, 1884.

Lally, Kelly A. *The Historic Architecture of Wake County North Carolina*. Raleigh: Wake County Government, 1994.

Lally, Kelly A. "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca.1770-1941) Multiple Properties Documentation Form." Survey and Planning Branch, Historic Preservation Section, NC Department of Archives and History, Raleigh.

The News and Observer, January 23, 1887.

Raleigh Historic Property Designation Application and Report, "Rufus J. Ivey House", Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, Inc., Raleigh, undated.

Wake County Architectural Survey Files. Survey and Planning Branch, Historic Preservation Section, NC Department of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Wake County Tax Maps and Property Records. On file at Wake County Courthouse. Raleigh, North Carolina.

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Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina

Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Rufus J. Ivey House is the 1.5-acre area outlined with a heavy black line on the accompanying tax parcel map (parcel #1736289214).

Boundary Justification:

The National Register boundary consists of the legal parcel on which the house sits. The current acreage represents the remaining portion of the house's original 282-acre tract, and provides an appropriate setting for the property.

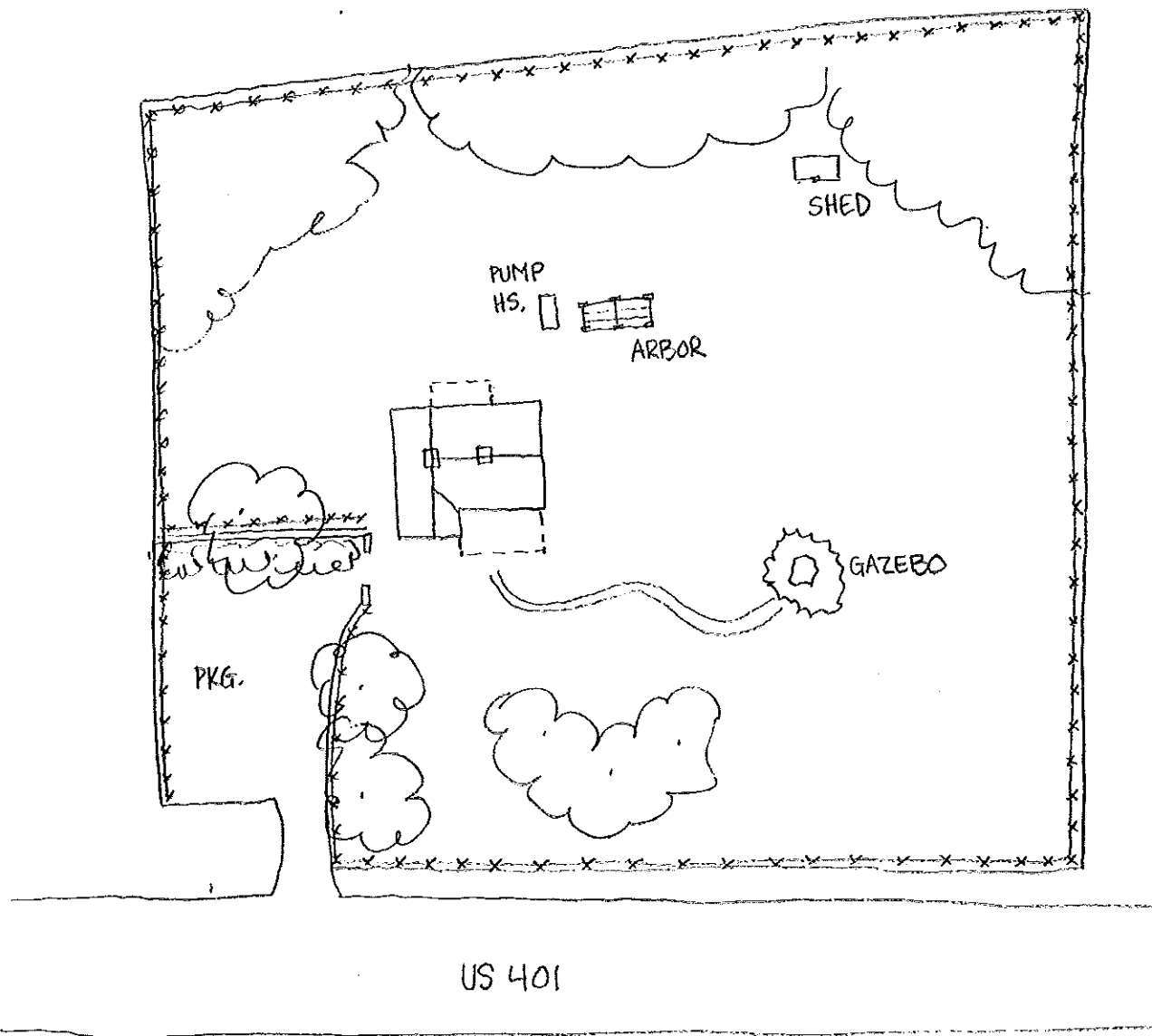
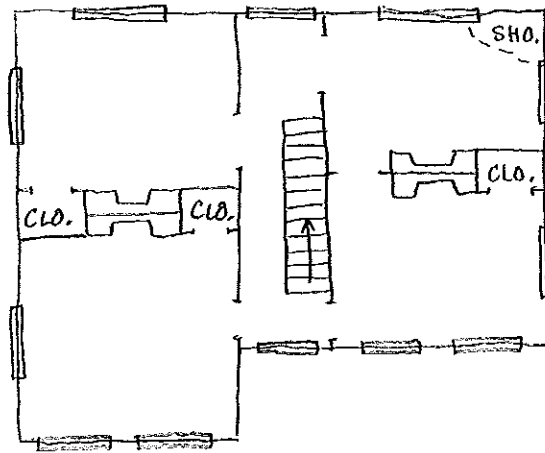
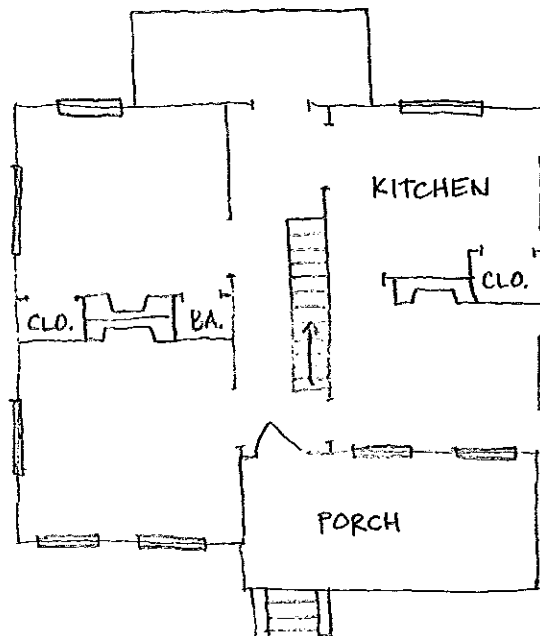


EXHIBIT A—Site Plan
Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina
Not to Scale



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



EXHIBIT B—Floor Plan
Ivey, Rufus J., House
Wake County, North Carolina
Not to Scale